

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/657,634

Examiner

Hoa V. Le

Applicant(s)

KEYES ET AL.

Art Unit

1752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 September 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 08 September 2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

Hoa V. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1752

This application is before the examiner for consideration on the merits.

I. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. David A. Novais on 22 June 2004.

AMENDMENT: The non-elected inventions of claims (24), (25) and (26-27) are cancelled to put the instant application in a condition for an allowance.

II. The elected invention is allowable. The non-elected inventions of claims (24), (25) and (26-27) are requested to be cancelled to put the instant application in a condition for an allowance. They are all being discussed.

III. The cited prior art submission filed on 08 September 2004 has been considered as that in the parent application no. 09/745,698 now patent no. 6,664,034.

IV. A. (1) It is allowed to claim by a functional, characteristic, conditional, physical and/or chemical property of a material and /or process. (2) However, a claimed functional, characteristic, conditional, physical and/or chemical property of a material and/or process carries

Art Unit: 1752

with a risk (*In re In re Schreiber*, 44 USPQ2d 1432). It is reasonable that the Office is not supplied, provided or equipped with a sufficient facility to carry out a test for the functional, characteristic, physical and/or chemical properties as claimed in accordance with the authority stated in *In re Best*, 195 USPQ 430; *Ex parte Maizel*, 27 USPQ2d 1662 or *Ex parte Phillip*, 28 USPQ2d 1302. The language "light of a wavelength chosen such that said dye attenuates said light " or the like is considered as the functional or characteristic property of a material. It has been considered and searched as appeared.

B. *In re Schreiber*, 44 USPQ2d 1429 states that "A patent applicant is free to recite features of an apparatus either structurally or functionally. See *In re Swinehart*... 169 USPQ 226, 228... Yet, choosing to define an element functionally, i.e., by what it does, carries with a risk.

V. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

(1) Edgar discloses, teaches and suggests an image development of a photographic film and electrically imaged recording comprising the steps of (1) applying a developer on an exposed photographic film and (2) using an infrared radiation scanner to capture an image. Edger discloses, teach and suggests that the use of the infrared radiation "does not expose the film" but fails to specify the functional, characteristic or conditional property of "light of a wavelength chosen such that said dye attenuates said light " as claimed.

(2) Cook et al (6,475,711) discloses, teaches and suggest an image development of a photographic film and electrically imaged recording comprising the steps of (1) applying a developer on an exposed photographic film and (2) using an infrared radiation scanner to capture an image so that the radiation "will not fog the film". Cook et al especially disclose and

Art Unit: 1752

require in the claims that film being coated thereon with a light sensitive silver halide emulsion layer having a dye precursor that is not so in the instant claims. Therefore, no interference process is set up.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

VI. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoa V. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-1332.

The examiner can normally be reached from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM on Monday through Thursday and about the same time of most Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark F. Huff can be reached on 571-272-1385

Applicants may file a paper by (1) fax with a central facsimile receiving number 703-872-9306,

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/657,634

Page 5

Art Unit: 1752

Hoa V. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1752

HVL
22 June 2004

HOA VAN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Hoa Van Le